



Homeland Defense

Edgewood Area – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5423

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command



Technical Assistance Team (TAT)

The Technical Assistance Team (TAT) was formed in October 1999 as part of the new Homeland Defense Business Unit (HLDBU). Based at the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC), located at Aberdeen Proving Ground Edgewood Area, Maryland, the TAT is focused on expanding our building/fixed site protection business area while providing technical support to the other teams within the HLDBU. There are four primary TAT mission efforts: fixed site/building protection; nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) testing services; customized rapid prototyping; and WMD dissemination device awareness training. The expertise of the TAT is available to military and commercial clients wishing for assistance in any of these areas.

Building/Fixed Site Protection

Buildings and fixed sites are potential targets for NBC weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attacks. The TAT offers a “lifecycle” range of services that can provide varied levels of protection for any new or existing building or fixed site, all tailored to the customer’s specific needs and resources. The team can provide any and all of the following services:



- Determine the vulnerability of the building/fixed site to attacks
- Provide short-, mid-, and long-range protective solutions through customized

procedures and hardware

- Author the specifications and scope of work for implementation of solutions
- Serve as architectural and engineering contract technical monitors
- Prepare for and/or conduct operational and certification tests following incorporation of protection solutions
- Develop follow-up maintenance recommendations and conduct testing to maintain the full functionality of protective solutions
- Issue recommendations for evaluating and decommissioning the building and associated protective solutions at the end of its useful life

The overarching goal of the TAT in this mission area is to tailor our range of building and fixed site protection products and services to meet the variety of needs created by today’s WMD threats.

NBC Testing Services

Realizing the critical importance of effective NBC protection equipment, the TAT conducts performance evaluations of first responder protection equipment, along with protection equipment from the DoD quad services, in simulated chemical agent environments.

The simulation chamber facilities have evaluated devices ranging in scope from single-person suits to the U.S. Army M1 Abrams tank. The TAT also coordinates training for first responders at the chamber facility, using the simulated chemical



environment to demonstrate the complexities and unique concerns associated with handling NBC incidents.

Special Projects/Rapid Prototyping

Sometimes, the perfect protective solution does not yet exist. To address these problems, the TAT



can construct rapid design solutions and pre-prototypes that meet unique customer needs. In this “skunkworks” environment, the TAT led the effort to fabricate 12 Mobile Analytical Laboratory Systems (MALS) and train ten Civil Support Teams.

Training

The unique configuration of WMD dissemination devices can challenge the current experience of the first responders/ bomb disposal personnel. The TAT offers basic and advanced training on the potential characteristics of WMD dissemination devices for senior level to first responder personnel, along with related basic and advanced electronics training courses. The team can also provide simulated dissemination devices to add enhanced realism during training exercises.

Equipment Evaluation

As part of the Department of Defense Domestic Preparedness (DP) program, performance and operational methodologies and facilities have been established to perform evaluations of commercially available detection and protective equipment for first responders. Existing and new equipment must be tested for its ability to be utilized by the responders in response to a

terrorist incident involving chemical or biological warfare agents. For equipment bought off-the-shelf, a means is needed to test it and provide the information on its CB characteristics to the consumer for purchasing decisions. SBCCOM has been actively involved in the developmental testing of CB materiel for over 70 years. This expertise has been carried over to support the Domestic Preparedness program in the area of testing commercial equipment against CB threats. The items included in the test program are as follows:

- OSHA Level A and B suits
- NIOSH certified respirators
- Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)
- Organic vapor detectors
- Boots and gloves

Using standardized test methodologies, the equipment is evaluated and the results are posted on the SBCCOM HLD website (www2.sbccom.army.mil/hld). These testing and evaluation resources are available to the entire response community.

Other Services

The TAT also has access to the resources of the HLDBU and ECBC, which can provide the following services in response to customer demand:

- Train building employees, security personnel, or first responders to safely address NBC situations
- Provide recommendations for detection, decontamination, and protection equipment purchases and integration
- Monitor development trends in NBC protection, detection, and decontamination fields for potential incorporation
- Provide protection to responder mobile assets
- Assist in annotating Emergency Operating Plans to reflect NBC considerations

For more information, contact the Homeland Defense Business Unit via mail to Commander, U.S. Army SBCCOM, ATTN: AMSSB-REN-HD (E3331/117), 5183 Blackhawk Road, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424, via telephone at (410) 436-3674, or via e-mail to homeland.defense@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.